

11th November 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

e-Safety information for parents/carers

E-Safety is an important part of keeping students safe at John Ruskin College. We have extensive security measures in place, which are monitored both internally and externally, to help safeguard students from potential dangers or unsuitable material. Any E-Safety incidents are recorded and managed in accordance with our Safeguarding policy and e- Safety policy. We raise awareness through tutorial on how to be safe online and how to become responsible digital citizens. We also request that all learners sign our e-safety agreement which helps to create a safer digital environment for all.

We take misuse of social media very seriously and work with our students to ensure they are aware that any comments made on social media websites are considered to be in the public domain and they are subject to various laws including the Malicious Communications Act 1998, libel laws and protection from harassment legislation.

However, we can only be successful in keeping our student safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent. Students can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

Many of our young people confidently navigate the digital world and we of an older generation can often feel disempowered and wonder what we can do to support and protect our son or daughter from the potential hazards and harm they could accidentally engage with. We would like to offer some advice and direction to help you support your son or daughter to become responsible and safe users of the digital world .

What can parents/carers do?

Dialogue

Talk to your son or daughter and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites, apps or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour.

Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply.

Make sure your child knows who to tell if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a young person less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

Websites for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice and report online abuse

www.childnet.com – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice

<http://clickcleverclicksafe.direct.gov.uk> – Click Clever Click Safe Campaign

www.bbc.co.uk/onlinesafety

www.cybermentors.org.uk – Online support for children

Our Safeguarding team are available to discuss any help or concerns that you may have. You can contact the team on tracy.andrews@johnruskin.ac.uk or alex.suddaby@johnruskin.ac.uk

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Andrews

Director of Learner Experience and Achievement